

Pakhub of terrorism, spreads false narrative about Kashmir: India at UN

UNITED NATIONS, JULY 3 /--/ Pakistan is a "hub of terrorism" in South Asia and beyond and "critical" attempts to spread a false narrative about Kashmir have always been unsuccessful, India has said at the UN. India's remarks came after Pakistan again brought up the Kashmir issue in its Right of Reply.

The representative of Pakistan said that the High Commissioner for Human Rights has identified many violations in Kashmir and added that repeating groundless accusations do not make them fact.

A farce can only go so far, the Pakistani representative said, according to the information about the session available online. India exercised its right of reply following a General Assembly debate yesterday on the responsibility to protect after Pakistan said that Kashmir was never a part of India. First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Sandeep Kumar Bhatnagar said in India's Right of Reply that "repeated and cynical attempts by Pakistan, a hub of terrorism in our region and beyond, to spread a false narrative about the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir have not succeeded earlier and will not do so now". He asserted that India did not wish to engage on this further.

During a June 25 General Assembly debate on the Responsibility to Protect, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN Maleeha Lodhi had made a reference to the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

India had then strongly rejected Pakistan's reference to Kashmir in the 193-member UN body saying in its Right of Reply that cynical attempts by Pakistan to raise the Kashmir issue in the UN have failed in the past and do not find any resonance in the UN body. With Pakistan again referring to Kashmir in its Right of Reply yesterday, Bhatnagar responded that during the session on responsibility to protect last week, India had placed on record its rejection of yet another attempt by the delegation of Pakistan to misuse the UN forum and raise the issue of Kashmir. He said India was constrained to take the floor again yesterday following Pakistan's new remarks. (PTI)

Indian engineer dies after jumping off rocks at Elk river waterfalls in US

WASHINGTON, JULY 3 /--/ A 32-year-old Indian software engineer has died after jumping from the rocks of the popular Elk River Falls in the US state of North Carolina, authorities said, marking the second drowning in the river in six weeks. Gogineni Nagarjuna, jumped off a rock close to the bottom of the falls and was pulled under by the strong pool currents.

He never resurfaced, Assistant Fire Marshall Paul Buchanan was quoted as saying by the Avery Journal. Nagarjuna of Charlotte, was swimming with friends at the base of the falls after jumping in from the side on Sunday, according to a statement from Avery County Sheriff Kevin Frye. Nagarjuna, hailing from Andhra Pradesh, struggled, went under and did not resurface. His body was recovered two hours later and taken to the medical examiner's office in Lenoir, the statement said.

The death was the second at the Elk River Falls in six weeks. On May 20, 26-year-old Thomas McCordle of Ohio, slid off a rock, was caught and dragged under by strong currents driven by heavy rains. The falls also have a history of being dangerous. Multiple serious injuries and deaths have occurred at the site through the years. Signage around the falls discourages thrill seekers from jumping from or swimming near the falls, as rocks and strong currents are potentially fatal hazards, the journal said. The sheriff's release noted that jumping from the rocks above the falls has been the primary cause of death or serious injury at the falls in the past, but the two most recent deaths have been a result of swimming incidents.

Trump admin misses deadline for second time on H4 notification

WASHINGTON, JULY 3 /--/ The Trump administration has failed to meet its deadline for the second time this year to issue a notification on its decision to terminate the work authorisation of H-4 visa holders, mostly Indians who are spouses of professionals having H-1B visas. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had informed a US court in March that it was working to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in June this year. At the end of the month of June, the DHS did not give any explanation for not issuing the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), which would have formally kicked off the process to terminate the

Obama-era decision to provide work authorisation to spouses of H-1B visa holders. "I have no updates to provide at this time," a DHS official told PTL, noting that he cannot speculate on when a decision would be made. Multiple times this year, as late as early June, the DHS had insisted that there was no change in its plans to rescind the Obama-era rule of providing authorisation to certain categories of H-4 visas holders. Indian women spouses of H-1B visa holders have been beneficiaries of this provision which the Trump administration now intends to reverse. The DHS had also missed a similar deadline in February when it told a federal court, which

was hearing a litigation, that it anticipated submitting to the Office of Management and Budget for review and clearance the proposed rule in time for publication in June 2018. The United States district court of Columbia is hearing an ongoing petition by Save Jobs USA which has filed a lawsuit against the decision of the previous Obama administration to give work authorisation to the spouses of H-1B visa workers whose green card applications have been approved. Meanwhile, two research scholars in a study paper said "the unpredictability of these impending changes" to American visa restrictions would not only cause financial strain, but was

already also causing psychological burden on families, particularly the spouses of expatriates in these families. "Furthermore, cancelling work permits of spouses could negatively affect business operations for major IT companies," said Pooja B Vijayakumar, a doctoral student at the Kenmy Business School, Limerick, Ireland, and Christopher J L Cunningham from the University of Tennessee, at Chattanooga. "If the current American presidential administration goes ahead with the plan to cancel work permits for spouses of expatriates, IT organisations and businesses will have to

come up with an action plan to support spouses to prevent or at least minimise turnover of critical members of their highly talented IT workforces," the research paper said. H-4 visas are issued to the spouses of H-1B visa holders, significantly large number of whom are high-skilled professionals from India. H-4 visa holders had obtained work permits under a special order issued by the previous Obama administration. Indian-Americans were a major beneficiary of this provision. More than one lakh H-4 visa holders have been beneficiaries of this rule. A 2015 rule issued by the Obama administration allows work permits for spouses who otherwise could not be employed while H-1B visa holders seek permanent resident status a process that can take a decade or longer. The H-1B programme offers temporary US visas that allow companies to hire highly skilled foreign professionals working in areas with shortages of qualified American workers. Since taking office last January, the Trump administration has been talking about cracking down on the H-1B visa scheme. During his election campaign, President Trump promised to increase oversight of our H-1B and L-1 visa programmes to prevent its abuse. (PTI)



Belarusian servicewomen march during a military parade marking the Belarus' Independence Day in Minsk. REUTERS

Indian-American Suneel Gupta running for US Congress

WASHINGTON, JULY 3 /--/ Suneel Gupta, a 38-year-old Indian-American lawyer and entrepreneur, is seeking to enter the House of Representatives from Michigan. Running on a platform of expanding health-care access and lowering costs, he is among five candidates contesting in the Democratic primary from the 11th Congressional District of Michigan.

The winner of the August 7 Democratic primary would contest for this open seat after incumbent David Trotter of the Republican party announced that he was not seeking a re-election. Suneel, the younger

brother of Emmy award winning journalist and doctor Sanjay Gupta, said, if elected, his priority would be to make quality and affordable health-care available to all.

"At a time when Donald Trump wants to cut Medicare by over USD 500 billion, I am the candidate in this race with hands-on healthcare experience who has stood up to the pharmaceutical companies who are ripping off families and seniors and I will fight him every step of the way," he said on his campaign website. Suneel comes from an illustrious Indian-American family

from Michigan. His parents, Subhash and Danyanjay Gupta, moved from India to the US in 1960s.

His mother was recently featured by the Time magazine for being the first female engineer at the Ford Motor Company. Suneel, in a recent statement, had said that he has broken the fund raising record by raising more than USD 1.3 million; which is highest among all the candidates running for the Congress from the seat. In 2012, Gupta's brother helped him start Rise, a company that uses technology to reduce the cost of quality health-care. After the startup

served over 1,000 patients, former first lady Michelle Obama asked Rise to be her team's official technology partner.

Through this public-private partnership together they delivered health coaching to lower-income areas of the country. In 2016, Michael Bloomberg convened a bi-partisan commission on the Future of Work, and Suneel was asked to join and bring Rise's lessons to policymakers. Suneel holds an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management and a law degree from Northwestern Law School.

Help reaches Thai cave boys after days trapped underground

MAE SAI (THAILAND), JULY 3 /--/ Food and medical help reached 13 members of a Thai youth football team found rickety but alive, huddled on a ledge deep inside a flooded cave nine days after they went missing, as the focus today turned to how to get them out. The Thai military said it is providing months' worth of food and diving lessons to the boys, discovered kilometres into the pitch-black and waterlogged Tham Luang network of caves in the country's monsoon-drenched north. "How many are you?...thirteen...brilliant," shouts a British diver, in an astonishing exchange captured in a video of the moment help finally reached the youngsters. The incredible footage showed the emaciated boys in baggy mud-slicked football jerseys, shielding their eyes from the divers' torches. Much-needed food and medical supplies - including high-calorie gels and paracetamol - reached them today as rescuers prepared for a prolonged extraction operation, with several chambers still submerged.

"(We will) prepare to send additional food to be sustained for at least four months and train all 13 to dive while continuing to drain the water," Navy Captain Anand Surawan said, according to a statement from Thailand's Armed Forces. The astonishing rescue sparked jubilation across the country after the country mounted a massive and gruelling operation beset by heavy downpours and fast-moving floodwaters. "We called this mission impossible because it rained every day... but with our determination and equipment we fought nature," Chiang Rai governor Narongsak Osottanakorn said today. The boys were discovered at about 10:00 pm yesterday by British divers some 400 metres from where they were believed to be stranded several kilometres inside the cave. In the video, posted on the Thai Navy SEAL Facebook page, one of the boys shouts to the rescuers: "We are hungry... shall we go outside?" In response the British diver says: "Many, many people are coming... we are the first," in reference to the vast and complex rescue operation that has taken over the mountainside.

The harrowing task of getting the boys out is complicated by the fact that they are in a weak state and are not experienced divers. Experts said it could take weeks - if not months - to get them out with much of the cave still submerged by floods. If diving proves impossible, there is a outside chance they can be drilled out or wait for waters to recede and walk out on foot. But the clock is ticking with heavy rains forecast to return this week as the monsoon season bites deeper.

KIDS CORNER



WordWheel

No.311

Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or anticlockwise. Solution No.310: REPULSES

5x5

Insert the missing letters to complete ten words - five across the grid and five down.

No.212

C	A	A	P	
A	A	A		
A	I	E		
E		L		
T	U	S		

OUR SOLUTION TO PUZZLE 211 (Other combinations may be possible.)

C	R	O	F	T
L	E	M	U	R
E	N	E	M	A
W	A	G	E	S
S	L	A	S	H

Reference: C.O.D. 1995

Cornered

© 2017 Mike Galton/Dial; by Andrews McMeel Syndication
www.cornered.com, cornered@gmail.com

HEV... GUY, HOW'RE YOU DOING?
WONDERFUL. EXCELLENT. COULDN'T BE BETTER.

Bravin

WORD-BUILDER

212

E	H	S

How many words of three or more letters, including plurals, can you make from the five letters, using each letter only once? No foreign words or ones beginning with a capital are allowed. There's at least one five-letter word.

TODAY'S GOALS:
Good - 12 Excellent - 17 Amazing - 21

SOLUTION 211: hot, how, owt, rho, rot, row, throw, thr, tow, trow, two, who, wort, worth, wot, wroth